

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE:GN
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE
----- 050614 /70
O 172223Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM MFA

REF: ISLAMABAD 12840

FOLLOWING STORY FROM 16 SEPTEMBER 1965 "TIMES" IS APPARENTLY THE ONE HILALY SEEKS. QUOTE:RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN, SEPTEMBER 15-PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN ISSUED AN APPEAL TODAY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO USE ITS "ENORMOUS INFLUENCE" TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE UNDECLARED WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

HE SAID THAT "QUITE FRANKLY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND THEY OUGHT TO PLAY IT MORE POSITIVELY." "LET THERE BE A CEASE-FIRE WITH A PURPOSEFUL SETTLEMENT," HE SAID. "THAT IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER REALLY, WE ARE AFTER PEACE."
(IN WASHINGTON, THE WHITE HOUSE REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON WANTED TO DO ANYTHING HE COULD TO ACHIEVE PEACE, BUT THAT HE "BELIEVED THAT THAT ROUTE IS THROUGH THE UNITED
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NATIONS.")

MARSHAL AYUB, SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID A CEASE-FIRE WAS THE IMPORTANT THING, AND THAT PAKISTAN'S POSITION ON A PLEBISCITE IN KASHMIR WAS NEGOTIABLE.

HIS CALL FOR THE UNITED STATES TO "PLAY A VERY DEFINITE ROLE" IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD BY USING ITS INFLUENCE TO HALT THE INDIAN-PAKISTANI CONFLICT APPEARED TO PUT HIM IN OPEN OPPOSITION TO A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNIST CHINA-GETTING THE UNITED STATES OUT OF ASIA.

WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE SEEMED DELIGHTED WITH THE APPARENT CHANGE, BUT THEY STRESSED THAT DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS WOULD HAVE TO BE WATCHED CLOSELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER PAKISTAN WAS REALLY READY TO PATCH UP HER DIFFERENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

PAKISTAN, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED IN THE NINETEEN-FIFTIES AS AMERICA'S CLOSEST ALLY IN ASIA, HAS BEEN GROWING INCREASINGLY CLOSE TO PEKING IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE THE UNITED STATES BEGAN SUPPLYING MILITARY AID TO INDIA. WASHINGTON INSISTS THAT THE SALES ARE ONLY TO HELP INDIA DEFEND HERSELF AGAINST CHINA, BUT PAKISTAN HAD COMPLAINED THAT THE WEAPONS WOULD NEVER BE FIRED AGAINST CHINESE TROOPS, BUT WOULD BE USED AGAINST PAKISTAN INSTEAD.

MARSHAL AYUB'S CALL FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE "A GIANT HAND" IN BRINGING PEACE CAME WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK'S REMARKS THAT CHINA WAS USING THE CONFLICT TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS.

PRESIDENT AYUB SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT WAS TRUE AND, SEIZING ON THE REFERENCE TO MR. RUSK, MADE HIS POINT THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PLAY ITS ROLE HERE "MORE POSITIVELY". "I THINK THE UNITED STATES HAS ENORMOUS AMOUNTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF INFLUENCE IN INDIA, AND SHE HAS INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN AS WELL," HE SAID.

ASKED WHAT SORT OF ROLE HE MIGHT SUGGEST FOR THE UNITED STATES IN HALTING THE WAR, MARSHAL AYUB DECLARED:"THE UNITED STATES CAN PLAY A VERY DEFINITE ROLE. AFTER ALL, IF THE UNITED STATES REALLY WANTS THIS SUBCONTINENT TO BE SOLID, THEN THE ESSENCE OF THAT IS REALLY UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. SHE COULD HAVE BROUGHT THAT ABOUT IN 1962, AND I THINK SHE CAN BRING THAT ABOUT EVEN TODAY IF SHE WAS TO USE HER INFLUENCE EFFECTIVELY, AND I BELIEVE SHE HAS THAT INFLUENCE."

WHEN ASKED WHAT HIS REACTION WOULD BE IF PRESIDENT JOHNSON TOLD PAKISTAN THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT STAND FOR

THIS WAR, MARSHAL AYUB SAID:"WELL, I THINK THEY WOULD HAVE TO TELL BOTH, "CEASE FIRE", AND THEN AFTER THAT, "LET'S

HAVE A LITTLE ARRANGEMENT T;AT THESE UNFORTUNATE THINGS DON'T HAPPEN. PAKISTAN WOULD UNDERSTAND IT." HE CONTINUED:"WHAT I MEAN IS THIS: LET THERE BE A CEASE-FIRE FOLLOWED BY A PURPOSEFUL SETTLEMENT. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER, REALLY, WE ARE AFTER PEACE."

ASKED IF PAKISTAN WAS DROPPING HER DEMAND THAT A KASHMIR PLEBISCITE MUST FOLLOW A CEASE-FIRE WITHIN THREE MONTHS, MARSHAL AYUB EVOKED LAUGHTER WHEN HE SMILED AND SAID:"WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET IT DONE EARLIER." HE ADDED QUICKLY, "BUT IF NOT, THAT IS A MATTER WHICH CAN BE NEGOTIATED."

THE PAKISTANI PRESIDENT WAS ASKED IF HE WAS NOW PINNING HIS HOPES FOR PEACE ON INTERVENTION BY THE BIG POWERS RATHER THAN ON A MILITARY VICTORY. "I AM PINNING MY HOPES FOR A CEASE-FIRE REALLY ON GOOD COMMON SENSE," HE REPLIED. HE CLEARED HIS THROAT AND SAID, "I AM PUTTING MY HOPES ON GOOD SENSE-MUTUAL SELF-INTEREST".

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MARSHALL AYUB SPOKE TO MORE THAN 100 PAKISTANI AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN IN THE LECTURE ROOM OF THE PAKISTANI ARMY GENERAL HEADQUARTERS HERE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS ATTIRED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING, HIS PHOTOGRAPH IN UNIFORM WAS ON THE WALL WITH OTHERS.

BEFORE REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, MARSHAL AYUB BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE ORIGINS OF THE FIGHTING. HE SAID THE ORIGINS LAY IN INDIA'S REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE PAKISTANI'S INDEPENDENT, EQUAL EXISTENCE AND REFUSAL TO HONOR HER 17 YEAR OLD PLEDGE TO PERMIT THE FIVE MILLION PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE-MOST OF THEM MOSLEMS-TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ISLAMIC PAKISTAN AND SECULAR BUT OVERWHELMINGLY HINDU INDIA.

WHILE HE STRESSED PAKISTANI'S DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AS LONG AS NECESSARY REGARDLESS OF THE COST, PRESIDENT AYUB EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS SEEKING PEACE, NOT A MILITARY DECISION.

COMMON SENSE SHOULD PREVAIL ON BOTH SIDES TO REALIZE THAT THIS BUSINESS OF CONQUERING EACH OTHER'S TERRITORIES THAT BATTLE, LET ME MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR: IT IS GOING TO DO INDIA NO GOOD-IT IS GOING TO DO PAKISTAN NO GOOD.

IN AN APPEAL FOR PEACE AND BETTER RELATIONS WITH INDIA THE PRESIDENT DECLARED:"IF ONLY INDIA WOULD REALIZE...

HOW MUCH SHE IS LOSING FROM NOT HAVING A WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITH PAKISTAN." HER POSITION IN ASIA AND THE WORLD,

HE SAID, ,WOULD HAVE BEEN TOTALLY DIFFERENT." END OF
QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE306215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RKMCKEE:GN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760465-0436
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761232/aaaabbdj.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ISLAMABAD 12840
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FROM MFA
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, US
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006